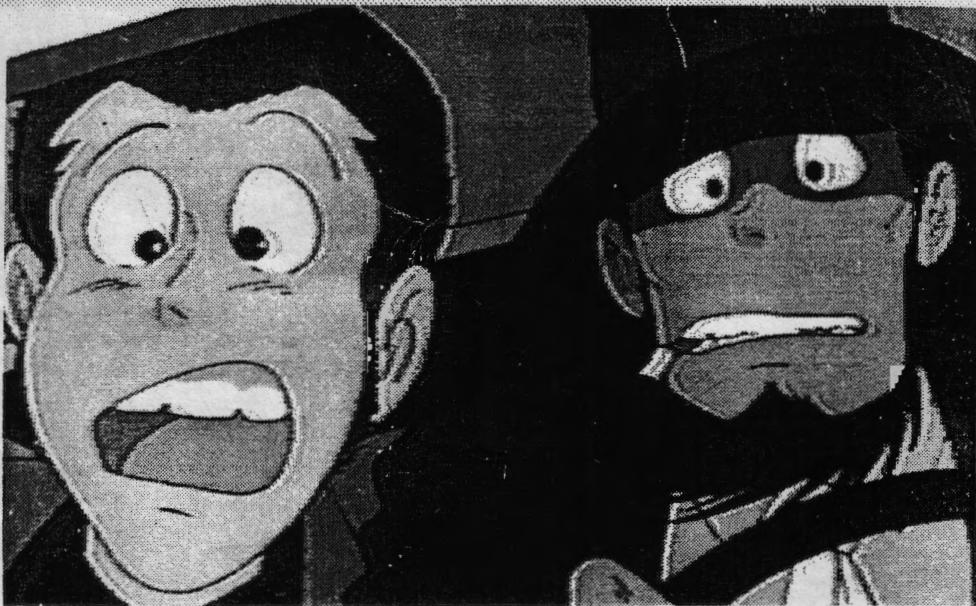


Final Stop Andromeda

July/August 1989

Issue 31

Lupin the 3rd



Outlanders

The bi-monthly newsletter of the Boston Japanimation Society

Society Information

Final Stop Andromeda is the bi-monthly newsletter put out by the Boston Japanimation Society, a non-profit organization devoted to the enjoyment and preservation of Japanese Animation. Our current officers are:

**Burton Choinski
Marianne Popa
Rev. Michael Horne**

**Media Coordinator/Treasurer
Social Coordinator/Public Relations
Internal Coordinator/Secretary**

The annual BJS membership fee is 6 dollars for members in the U.S. and Canada and 12 dollars for members elsewhere in the world. Only U.S. currency will be accepted.

With your membership in the Boston Japanimation Society you get the following benefits:

- ✓ A one-year subscription to Final Stop Andromeda
- ✓ A membership card to impress your friends with
- ✓ Free Classifieds in the newsletter

- ✓ Discounts on merchandise at the following locations:
 - ◆ Outer Limits , 457 Moody St., Waltham
 - ◆ Bop City Comics , 80 Worcester Rd., Framingham (Rt 9, in the Marshalls mall)
 - ◆ Space Station Studios , Waltham

If you received this issue in the mail, check your mailing label. If the words "*Last Issue*" appear under your membership expiration date, this really is your **LAST ISSUE!**

New membership and renewal dues should be sent in the form of a check or money order made payable to:

Burton Choinski, 2 Charena Rd., Wayland, MA 01778

Be sure that the payment is made out to Burton Choinski, not to BJS. Any check or money order made out incorrectly will be returned to you.

Back issues from number 17 to the present issue are available for 1 dollar each. If you need them mailed to you there is an additional charge of 1 dollar for postage and handling.

Directions to BJS meetings at UMASS Boston

- By Train** Take the Red line to JFK/UMASS station. Free shuttle buses there will take you directly to UMASS Boston. Shuttle buses run until 4:30pm, but other members may be able to provide transportation to the station.
- By Car** Take Route 3 to exit 15 to get to Morrissey Blvd., on which UMASS is located, across the street from Channel 56 and the Boston Globe. It's right next to the JFK Library.
- At UMASS** Walk or drive to the Wheatley building (No. 010). At present our meetings are held on the first floor, in room 041 (past elevators, through the double doors, straight ahead).

Contributors to this issue of Final Stop

Artwork by: Sean Bishop, Frankie Washington and Jimmy Luu..
Other Submissions: David Moisan.

Schedule of Events

July 8th

("Manga" month!)

Meeting

Main Feature:
Also Showing:

Outlanders
Grey
Hokuto no Ken

July 15th

Picnic

Second annual picnic to be held at Cochituate State Park.
More details on page 7.

July 30th

Roadtrip

Monthly roadtrip starting at 2:00 pm. Be at the Riverside
"T" station (Green line "D") by 1:30 pm.

August 12th

("Action Adventure" month!)

Main Feature:
Also Showing:

Lupin IIIrd
Bubblegum Crisis IV
Gundam 0080

August 31st-September 4th

Convention

The 47th world science fiction convention, including a
sizable devotion to animation.

August 26th

Roadtrip

Monthly roadtrip starting at 2:00 pm. Be at the Riverside
"T" station (Green line "D") by 1:30 pm.

All monthly meetings begin at 1:00 pm, on the dates noted above. See page 2 for details on how to get to UMASS and the video room.

If there is a movie or series episode or something you would like to see in a future meeting, please come to any officer with your request at the monthly meeting, or send it in by mail. All requests are subject to approval by the officers. Sorry, no X-rated films will be considered.

Submissions

Final Stop Andromeda needs submissions from its members! We can use any anime-related material, such as drawings, reviews; translated material, commentary, or anything else you think might be good. Remember, the quality and size of the newsletter is up to you, so submit often!

I'm probably spoiling you people with large newsletters, so don't get huffy because this one is so thin. Work hit me in a big way, and I had little time to work on it. Please, we need people to keep sending things in, besides such regulars as Akira and David.

I mention spoiling you, because eventually someone else is going to have to take over the creation of this rag. I am announcing here that I plan to step down as newsletter editor at the end of this year (after the November/December issue). If you feel you have what it takes to put out FSA regularly and with good taste and quality, see me at any of the monthly meetings.

As always, send submissions to me, the newsletter editor. My address is:

Burton Choinski
2 Charena Rd.
Wayland, MA 01778

Phone (508) 358-2970 (call between 9pm and 11pm)

Andromedia

Comparing Japanimation and Science Fiction

Part 4: Comedy

by David Moisan

Comedy in Japanimation consists of in-jokes, parody, and ethnic humor, and it's aimed at an adolescent audience. Many comedies have a science fiction and fantasy background.

The most famous comedy series of all time is undoubtedly Urusei Yatsura (loosely translated as "Those Annoying Aliens!"). This 1978 TV series, created by Rumiko Takahashi, spawned five movies, innumerable OAVs, and tons of merchandise.

This show has single-handedly revived the TV sitcom in Japan, inspiring Maison Ikkoku and Orange Road, among others. It has also gained a loyal following among American fans.

The basic plot revolves around three residents of Tomobiki Town: Ataru, a normal (but lecherous!) high-school student, Shinobu, his girlfriend, and Lum, an alien girl from the planet Oniboshi. Lum is normally dressed only in a tigerstriped bikini and she can fly! She can also give electric shocks, most frequently to Ataru! Lum and Shinobu both vie for Ataru's attention in a classic love triangle. [Note -- after several episodes this triangle became "Lum"- "Ataru"- "everyone else" -- BC]

Two of the Urusei Yatsura films provide good examples of its spirit and style. In Only You (1983), Ataru receives a marriage invitation from an alien princess, Elle. He accepts it, infuriating Lum and her friends.

It turns out that Ataru and Elle met as children, playing a game whose object was for Ataru to step on Elle's shadow. Ataru succeeded, and Elle told him that on her planet, the first man to step on her shadow will marry her. Years later, Elle comes back for Ataru, and Lum launches the entire Oniboshi space fleet to win back "her Darling!"

While on Elle's planet, Ataru learns that Elle has kept all her former lovers in suspended animation in her "love closet"; he becomes disenchanted with her, and longs for Lum, who soon arrives with her friend Benten, to rescue him.

The film culminates with Lum, Elle and Ataru traveling back in time to the playground where Ataru and Elle played their marriage game. (Time travel and other temporal anomalies are a favorite topic of Takahashi's. She produced another time travel film, Firetripper (1985).

The next film in the series takes a bizarre turn. In Beautiful Dreamer (1984), Lum, Ataru and the gang are preparing for the Tomobiki High School Festival (featuring a tank, no less!) when they are entrapped in a time loop, endlessly preparing for the festival.

When they try to escape, they find that they, and Tomobiki Town, are on the back of a giant turtle, floating in space. Their fate has been determined by the Evil Dream Devil, who is trapping them in their dreams (where's Freddy Kreuger?) The film draws heavily upon Japanese mythology and legends.

Urusei Yatsura in general has mixed results as a comedy. Although it is often funny, it relies on ethnic humor and Japanese puns that defy understanding. Also, Takahashi herself has a warped sense of humor that is not unlike Terry Gilliam's.

A sub-genre that most of you are familiar with is Film Noir. These films pay homage to famous Hollywood traditions; they include Dark Star, Gremlins, and Who Framed Roger Rabbit. Similarly, some anime pay homage to famous anime traditions, and employ parody and "in-jokes". (Many producers put in-jokes in their non-comedy films, but that's another story.)

One of the most well known of these films is Project A-ko (1986). It pokes fun at the various "high-school" comedies that have sprung up in the wake of Urusei Yatsura. It's about three high-school girls; A-ko Magami is a redheaded girl with unusual strength. B-ko Kotobuki is violet-haired, and has power, money and a knack for engineering. C-ko is a blond, bubbleheaded crybaby, ridiculously cute.

All three girls attend the Graviton Institute. A-ko and C-ko are very close, B-ko is jealous of A-ko, and wants C-ko for herself. If that isn't enough, their city Graviton is built in the crater created by an alien spaceship crash 16 years before and C-ko is being stalked by an alien spy who believes her to be a lost princess.

Throughout the film, A-ko and B-ko battle for C-ko's favor. B-ko employs numerous mecha; all are parodies of well-known mecha. One of B-ko's minions, Mari, is a masculine female who is obviously modelled after Kenshiro of Hokuto no Ken.

This film inspired two sequels, Project A-ko II (1987), and Project A-ko III: Cinderella Rhapsody. The second film follows the same plot as the first. One memorable scene has A-ko and C-ko being followed by a horde of spies, all wearing identical trenchcoats and dark glasses. When the spies spot them, they all suddenly spot one another as enemy agents and start a huge fight among themselves.

In the third film, A-ko discovers boys! Both A-ko and B-ko covet the same boy, and each are dressing up for a lavish party to be held in the remains of the alien space ship that crashed in the city during the first movie. They both arrive at the party, and immediately start one of their famous battles, thus alerting the Graviton Emergency Team; the Team is composed of various anime characters and mecha, including Gundam, Saint Seiya, Megazone 23, Transformers and Fandora.

When the smoke clears, the boy reveals that he has fallen for C-ko, of all people! A-ko and B-ko start yet another fight, and it's business as usual in Graviton City.

The comedy in Project A-ko is much like Chuck Jones' Looney Tunes. The first film is the best of the three, but the third film is very funny as a romantic comedy.

Rumiko Takahashi made what may be the best film in this sub-genre: The Supergal (1986). The heroine is one Lieutenant Maris, of the Special Police. She is an attractive, red-haired Thanatosian, with the strength of six men. Unfortunately, Maris is constantly wrecking things, including her spaceship! Despite her handsome salary, she is destitute; in her words, "Poverty is the cause of everything bad!"

Maris receives a new assignment; she is to rescue Koganemaru Matsushita, heir to the Matsushita fortune. She readily accepts, imagining that the boy will fall in love with her and ask her to marry her, bringing her out of poverty. She and her companion, Murphy (a nine-tailed space fox with powers of transformation) head out in their spaceship to find Koganemaru.

They are soon intercepted by his kidnapper, Zombie Sue, Maris' old rival (Maris and Sue were once lady wrestlers.) After a brief Star Wars-type space battle, Maris and Murphy crash on Ahoya, a desert planet. Eventually, they both make their way to Sue's hideout for a climactic confrontation.

This film is hilarious! It pays homage to Star Wars, Urusei Yatsura, Gundam, Space Cruiser Yamato and more! [more like "rips off from" -- BC] It also features a stereotypical shower scene, lots of lechery, and bathroom humor right out of Devilman!

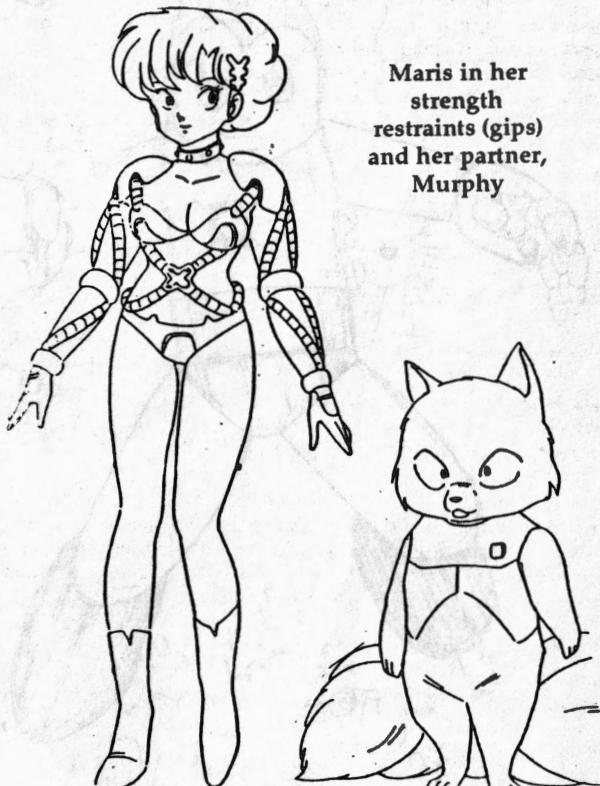
The Supergal is simply the funniest spoof of science fiction and animation. It's obvious that Takahashi understands her subjects well, unlike many others.. This may be one of the most underrated films in animation today. In rushing to Urusei Yatsura and Project A-ko, many fans have passed this by.

Our last topic for this issue is the Daicon films. Daicon is an annual animation convention, organized by fans in Japan. These fans produce an animated short to open the convention. These shorts pay homage to every science fiction, fantasy and animation character in existence.

The best Daicon film is Daicon IV (1983). Set to the Electric Light Orchestra's "Twilight", it features a girl (who strongly resembles Lynn Minmay of Macross) riding through the air on a sword. She witnesses monsters, space battles, a light-sabre battle out of Star Wars, and hordes of anime characters and mecha.

The Daicon films in general, and Daicon IV in particular, are an exhilarating trip through science fiction, fantasy and animation. These films are of professional quality, which is very remarkable for a fan group. (As a matter of fact, the people behind the films -- Toshio Okada, Yasuhiro Takeda, and Hiroyuki Yamaga -- went on to form Gainax, now a successful animation studio. Yamaga became the co-director of Wings of Onearmis)

In the next issue, I'll explore the rapidly growing sub-genre known as Cyberpunk, noted with films like Megazone 23 and Bubblegum Crisis.



Maris in her strength restraints (gips) and her partner, Murphy

"Dirty Pain"

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Announcements

Second Annual BJS Picnic

This year's picnic will be held at Lake Cochituate -- Cochituate State Park in Natick, Mass. on Saturday, July 15th, 1989. (Raindate: Saturday July 22, 1989). The reason for such early dates is because Worldcon is being held at the end of August and we did not wish to conflict with anyone's plans to attend the con. Cochituate State Park has barbecue facilities as well as plenty of space for playing baseball, frisbee, volleyball, and many other outdoor games.

In order for this picnic to be a success, we need your HELP! We need those of you with cars to volunteer your services as transportation from Riverside to Natick. Anyone planning to attend this year's festivities should sign up on the sheet provided at the July meeting or call Marianne at (617) 524-4304. All members will meet at the Riverside T Station by 10:00 Saturday morning. We will leave Riverside promptly at 10:30 am and return there at approximately 7:00 pm. (for drivers, getting to riverside is easy enough -- take the pike to the 128 exit and take 128 south. The station is off the first exit on 128 [signs

are posted]). The entry fee to the park is \$5 a carload, so bring a little change to help cover these expenses.

Food Tips:

Members may bring anything they like to the picnic. Salads such as pasta, potato or garden may be either supermarket purchased or homemade. CAUTION: Salads which contain mayonnaise should be kept as COLD as possible to prevent salmonella poisoning.

Barbecue facilities are provided but no equipment. Members who have charcoal to spare may bring it, but many stores are nearby and we can pick up items as needed. Items to be barbecued may include chicken, sausages, ribs, burgers, hot dogs, etc. Condiments may be brought if convenient, but again may be picked up after reaching the park.

Easy desserts which can be carried, such as cake, cookies, pie and fresh fruit are welcome.

Bring beverages, such as Coke, Lemonade, juices, etc. No alcohol is permitted.

Classifieds

Wanted

Information about (or tapes of) the following TV shows:

Lupin the Third Famous Detective Holmes
Konan, Boy of the Future The Girl of the Alps

I'm also looking for anyone who can provide me with a complete filmography of Hayao Miyazaki. This is for an upcoming handout that I want to do. In return, I may be able to provide info on your favorite TV show or film. Call

David Moisan
(508) 745-8375

For Sale:

I'm selling animation books or related materials from Japan! Titles included: Macross, Orguss, Final Yamato, Fandora, Humanoid, City Hunter, Dragonar, Dancougar, Dirty Pair, Gundam, and Galaxy Cyclone Braiger. Also, I'll be selling Chinese-Japanese Manga at \$1 (cheap!) and also Animedia (Japanese Animation Magazine) without poster and stickers offered in the original, at \$4 to \$5 each. These items will be sold at the July meeting!! You can call to reserve these items. First come, First serve. So hurry up!!

Ask for Jimmy, call between 9-11 pm.
(617) 661-4103



FINAL STOP ANDROMEDA

